

CLAIMS

We claim:

Sub A1

1. A method for storing and retrieving data in a computer system including a memory, a central processing unit and a display, said method including the steps of:
- 5 configuring said memory according to a logical table, said logical table including:
- a plurality of rows, each said row including an object identification number (OID) to identify each said row, each said row corresponding to a record of information;
- 10 a plurality of columns intersecting said plurality of rows to define a plurality of cells, each said column including an OID to identify each said column; and wherein
- at least one row comprises a template that includes a description cell that describes the template, said at least one row further including a fields cell that includes a plurality of references to a corresponding plurality of labelled columns.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said fields cell further includes information related to each of said labelled columns.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of performing an operation on data within said labelled columns according to said template.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said operation comprises at least one of the following: an editing operation, a printing operation, a searching operation or an exporting operation.

Sub A2

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said template comprises a template for a structured e-mail message.
6. A method for storing and retrieving data in a computer system including a memory, a central processing unit and a display, said method including the steps of:

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configuring said memory according to a logical table, said logical table including:
a plurality of rows, each said row including an object identification number (OID) to identify each said row, each said row corresponding to a record of information;

5 a plurality of columns intersecting said plurality of rows to define a plurality of cells, each said column including an OID to identify each said column, at least one cell in a particular row including a definition, said definition including a reference to at least one column;

10 automatically adding to said one cell a reference to a row according to said definition.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said definition includes a reference to every row that includes a valid value in a certain column.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said definition includes a query that results in references to a plurality of rows that satisfy the query.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein said particular row comprises a folder type row.

Sub A3
10. A method for storing and retrieving data in a computer system including a memory, a central processing unit and a display, said method including the steps of:
configuring said memory according to a logical table, said logical table including:

5 a plurality of rows, each said row including an object identification number (OID) to identify each said row, each said row corresponding to a record of information;

10 a plurality of columns intersecting said plurality of rows to define a plurality of cells, each said column including an OID to identify each said column, at least one of said columns including information to indicate an indexing method corresponding to said column; and

indexing said at least one column according to said indexing method.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein:
at least one of said cells includes a pointer to an index record; and
said indexing method includes the steps of:
searching said table for at least two key words; and
creating index records for at least two key words, said index
records including one or more pointers to cells in said table that contain
said key words.

12. The method of claim 11 further including the step of querying said table, said
step querying said table further including the steps of:
locating one of said index records according to the query of a user;
retrieving at least one cell in said table pointed to by said located index record.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of locating one of said index records
further includes the steps of locating at least one of said index records pointed to by said
at least one retrieved cell.

14. The method of claim 13 further including the step of weighting key words and
retrieved cells according to pre-defined search criteria.

15. The method of claim 13 further including the step of filtering key words and
retrieved cells according to pre-defined search criteria.

Sub A4
16. A method for storing and retrieving data in a computer system including a
memory, a central processing unit and a display, said method including the steps of:
configuring said memory according to a logical table, said logical table including:
a plurality of rows, each said row including an object identification
number (OID) to identify each said row, each said row corresponding to a record of
information;
a plurality of columns intersecting said plurality of rows to define a
plurality of cells, each said column including an OID to identify each said column, at

least one cell in a particular row including an annotation such that said annotation cell is fully integrated into said logical table; and

performing an operation on said cell including said annotation.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said operation comprises indexing.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said annotation cell includes hypertext.

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